

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



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## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, December 5, 2008

**Remarks on the Terrorist Attacks in Mumbai, India**

*November 29, 2008*

On behalf of all Americans, Laura and I extend our condolences to those suffering from the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India. We mourn those who lost their lives, including American citizens. We pray that the injured will recover. We pledge the full support of the United States as India investigates these attacks, brings the guilty to justice, and sustained its democratic way of life.

My administration has been monitoring the situation in India closely since the attacks on Wednesday. On Thursday morning, I spoke to Prime Minister Singh from Camp David. I sent our heartfelt condolences to the Prime Minister. This morning I held a video conference with Secretary Rice, our Ambassador to India, our consul general in Mumbai, and other national security officials. We reviewed the latest developments, and we are working to ensure that American citizens in India are safe. Throughout the process, we have kept President-elect Obama informed.

The killers who struck this week are brutal and violent, but terror will not have the final word. The people of India are resilient; the people of India are strong. They have built a vibrant, multiethnic democracy that can withstand this trial. Their financial capital of Mumbai will continue to be the center of commerce and prosperity.

The leaders of India can know that nations around the world support them in the face of this assault on human dignity. And as the people of the world's largest democracy recover from these attacks, they can count on the world's oldest democracy to stand by their side.

Thank you very much. May God bless the people of India.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:51 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India; U.S. Ambassador to India David C. Mulford; and Paul A. Folmsbee, consul general, U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai.

**Executive Order 13480—Exclusions From the Federal Labor-Management Relations Program**

*November 26, 2008*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 7103(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, and in order to reflect the effects of the reorganization and restructuring of the Departments of Energy, Homeland Security, Justice, Transportation, and the Treasury on their subdivisions exempted from coverage under the Federal Labor-Management Relations Program, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Determinations.** The subdivisions of the Departments of Energy, Homeland Security, Justice, Transportation, and the Treasury set forth in sections 2 through 6 of this order are hereby determined to have as a primary function intelligence, counter-intelligence, investigative, or national security work. It is further determined that chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, cannot be applied to these subdivisions in a manner consistent with national security requirements and considerations.

**Sec. 2. Department of Energy.** Executive Order 12171 of November 19, 1979, as amended, is further amended by revising section 1–210 to read as follows:

“1–210. Agencies or subdivisions of the Department of Energy:

- (a) The National Nuclear Security Administration.
- (b) The Office of Intelligence.
- (c) The Office of Counterintelligence.

- (d) The Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence.
- (e) The Savannah River Operations Office.”

**Sec. 3. Department of Homeland Security.** Executive Order 12171 of November 19, 1979, as amended, is further amended by revising section 1–214 to read as follows:

“1–214. Agencies or subdivisions of the Department of Homeland Security:

- (a) Office of the Military Advisor.
- (b) The following office within the Management Directorate:
  - (1) Office of Security.
- (c) Office of Operations Coordination.
- (d) Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement.
- (e) Office of Intelligence and Analysis.
- (f) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.
- (g) The following offices and subdivisions within the United States Coast Guard:
  - (1) Maritime Intelligence Fusion Centers, Atlantic.
  - (2) Pacific Area Intelligence Division.
  - (3) Intelligence Coordination Center.
  - (4) Coast Guard Investigative Service.
  - (5) Coast Guard Security Center.
- (h) The following offices and subdivisions within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement:
  - (1) The Office of Investigations.
  - (2) The Office of International Affairs.
  - (3) The Office of Intelligence.
  - (4) The National Incident Response Unit.
- (i) The following office within the Transportation Security Administration:
  - (1) The Office of Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Service.
- (j) The following office within United States Customs and Border Protection:
  - (1) The Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination.
- (k) The following offices and subdivisions within the Federal Emergency Management Agency:
  - (1) The following offices and subdivisions within the Office of National Continuity Programs:
    - (A) The Office of the Assistant Administrator.
    - (B) The Operations Division.

(C) The Continuity of Operations Division.

(D) The Readiness Division.

(E) The Integrated Public Alert and Warning Systems Division.

(2) The following subdivisions within the Disaster Operations Directorate:

(A) The Mobile Emergency Response Support Operations, including Mobile Emergency Response Support Detachments.

(B) The FEMA Operations Center.

(C) The Alternate FEMA Operations Center.”

**Sec. 4. Department of Justice.** Executive Order 12171 of November 19, 1979, as amended, is further amended by:

(a) revising subsection (g) of section 1–209 to read as follows:

“(g) National Security Division.”; and

(b) adding to the end of section 1–209 the following new subsection:

“(h) Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.”

**Sec. 5. Department of Transportation.** Executive Order 12171 of November 19, 1979, as amended, is further amended by revising section 1–213 to read as follows:

“1–213. The following subdivision of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation: National Security Coordination Division, Office of Emergency Operations and Investigations, FAA Office of Security and Hazardous Materials.”

**Sec. 6. Department of the Treasury.** Executive Order 12171 of November 19, 1979, as amended, is further amended by revising section 1–203 to read as follows:

“1–203. Agencies or subdivisions of the Department of the Treasury:

(a) The Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence.

(b) The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

(c) Criminal Investigation, Internal Revenue Service.

(d) The Trade Analysis and Enforcement Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.”

**Sec. 7.** This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United

States, its agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
November 26, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., December 3, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

**Message to the United Nations  
International Conference on  
Financing for Development in Doha,  
Qatar**

*November 26, 2008*

I send greetings to those gathered for the UN International Conference on Financing for Development in Doha, Qatar. Six years ago, I joined leaders from 50 countries at the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development at Monterrey, Mexico to forge a new partnership for development. That partnership was based on a consensus among the world's nations that development is in the common interest of humankind. The most effective way to raise the living standards of the world's poorest people is to create economic growth by using all forms of development finance—including trade, investment, grants, and lending—in countries that govern justly, invest in their people, and encourage economic freedom. Today in Doha we should reaffirm our commitment to the development principles agreed upon at Monterrey.

The world's economic growth is currently threatened by a global financial crisis. The world's poor are the most vulnerable to the crisis, with low or no savings or assets to weather the turmoil. In many countries, the financial crisis is leading to rising unemployment, business failures, and economic hardship.

The United States will not abandon its commitments to people in the developing world in the midst of this financial crisis. The

United States calls on other economies, both developed and emerging, to similarly reaffirm and fulfill their commitments to development and assist the world's poorest, consistent with their roles in the global economy. The United States pledges to assist developing and emerging economies in gaining access to finance and pledges to help ensure that the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other multilateral development banks have the resources to assist countries in crisis.

The nations of the world are increasingly interdependent. With interdependence comes mutual responsibility and accountability. Our ties of trade, finance, and development should be strengthened, not weakened by the current market turmoil. The development principles of Monterrey provide us with a proven path to prosperity and partnership. Let us join together today in reaffirming that partnership.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: An original was not available for the verification of the content of this message. This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 1.

**Remarks on World AIDS Day**

*December 1, 2008*

Good morning. Today is World AIDS Day, a day we reaffirm our commitment to fight HIV/AIDS at home and abroad. Thirty-three million people around the world are living with HIV, including more than 1 million Americans. Once again this year, to observe World AIDS Day, there is a red ribbon on the North Portico of the White House. The ribbon is a symbol of our resolve to confront HIV/AIDS and to affirm the matchless value of every life.

One of the most important initiatives of my administration has been the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR. It's the largest international health initiative dedicated to a single disease. When we launched PEPFAR, our goal was to support treatment for 2 million people in 5 years. Today I'm pleased to announce that we have exceeded that goal early.

American people, through PEPFAR, are supporting lifesaving treatment for more than 2 million people around the world. And when PEPFAR began, only 50,000 people living with HIV in all of sub-Saharan Africa were receiving antiretroviral treatment.

Around the world, we've also supported care for more than 10 million people affected by HIV, including more than 4 million orphans and vulnerable children. More than 237,000 babies have been born HIV-free, thanks to the support of the American people for programs to prevent mothers from passing the virus on to their children.

PEPFAR is bringing hope and healing to people around the world. On our trips to Africa, Laura and I have witnessed firsthand the gratitude of the African people.

We look forward to discussing our efforts to combat global HIV/AIDS with Rick Warren at the Saddleback Civil Forum on Global Health this morning. In the meantime, we thank our fellow citizens for being so compassionate and so caring and so decent.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:07 a.m. on the North Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Richard D. "Rick" Warren, pastor, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Remarks at the Saddleback Civil Forum on Global Health

December 1, 2008

**Rick Warren.** Well, Mr. President, I want to start by admitting to the audience that you always call me "Ricky." [Laughter]

**The President.** Yes, you always call me "Georgie." [Laughter]

**Mr. Warren.** There are only three people in my life who call me "Ricky"—my mother, my grandmother, and the President.

So now we've got three purposes here this day. First, thanks for being here on the 20th anniversary of AIDS—World AIDS Day. We want to do a little information, we want to do a little celebration, and we want to do a little explanation.

First, I want to get a progress report on PEPFAR, and an update on what's actually

happened. Then I want us to talk about why you did it—why did you do it. And I want to talk about some of the stories you've heard, some of the things you've seen around the world in the last 5 years. And then we want to honor you for your efforts, because we think that this is one of the most amazing things. I mentioned earlier in our pre-show that no man in history, no world leader has ever done more for global health than President George W. Bush. And I think we need to recognize that, and I thank you for that—

**The President.** Thank you.

**Mr. Warren.** —so much. Thank you.

Now I want to talk about the results of PEPFAR in five areas: saving lives; creating new partnerships—you don't have to write them down—[laughter]—trust in local leadership; encouraging behavior; and reducing stigma.

Now, first, these are five things that as I watched this program develop from the ground, that are very unique, very unusual. For instance, insisting on accountability. When you established this, and you first announced it at the State of the Union 2003, you insisted on measurable goals. Most development is afraid to do that; they're scared to death to do that. But you did it.

So how are we doing? Tell me about what's happened in the last 5 years.

**The President.** Well, Ricky—[laughter]—we're doing pretty good.

I insisted upon measurable goals because I felt that lives needed to be saved. And if you don't have measurable goals, lives might not be saved. This is—we live in a process world in government. Oftentimes people said, "Well, what are the inputs?" This is an administration that tried to get people to ask the question, "Are we actually doing something?"

And so we set a goal of saving 50,000—well, when we got started there were 50,000 people getting antiretrovirals in all sub-Saharan Africa. And we set a goal of 2 million by 5 years to get antiretrovirals.

**Mr. Warren.** From 50,000 to 2 million.

**The President.** In 5 years. And, you know, thank you for setting this up, because today

we're able to announce that we're over 2 million in less than 5 years, which is—[*applause*].

**Mr. Warren.** That's fantastic.

**The President.** You see, but setting goals is difficult for some. Bureaucracies tend to avoid goal setting, in all due respect to bureaucracies. Foreign governments tended to want to avoid results. Nobody really wants to be held to account oftentimes. And so setting the goals also had to change the way we did development aid. In other words, we said to people, "We want to help you." But rather than being paternalistic about our help, which basically says, "We know better than you on how to achieve our goals." We expect you to be a partner in achieving the goals. Which was an attitudinal change, basically saying to African leaders, in this case, "We trust you; we think you've got the capacity to be a good partner." And——

**Mr. Warren.** Yes. Now, you mentioned two of those things, but I'm going to read you a quote. You once said this: "Africa's most valuable resource is not its oil or its diamonds, but it's the talent and the creativity of its people." Now, a lot of politicians say that, but you insisted that the people who were going to do PEPFAR, that the decisions and the strategy actually be done by the people on the ground there, instead of a bureaucracy or centralized back here.

And so this principle of trusting the local leaders is a pretty innovative thing when you think about it.

**The President.** Well, actually, it's a timeless management principle of aligning authority and responsibility. If you disassociate authority and responsibility, you can't have accountability. And so we aligned responsibility and authority. And——

**Mr. Warren.** That didn't make some people happy. I mean, what about the people who say——

**The President.** That's what happens sometimes in my line of work. [*Laughter*]

**Mr. Warren.** Okay, now, you mention this because this is another innovation. The innovation of trusting leaders at the local level——

**The President.** Right.

**Mr. Warren.** ——instead of saying, "We over here are going to tell you what to do."

You let them determine the strategy in each country. And that's how you got to 2 million.

**The President.** Right, well, we actually helped them develop the strategy. But when they develop the strategy, therefore it's easier to hold the strategy developer to account. And so it's not all that profound to basically say responsibility and authority go hand in hand. What was different is that the United States believes that paternalism is destructive. And we believe partnership is constructive. And that's the basis of a lot of our foreign policy.

For example, not to get off subject, but the Millennium Challenge Account basically said, we want to help you, but we expect you to do some fundamentals, such as govern justly, to end corruption, to invest in the health and education of your people, to believe in market-oriented principles for the economy.

What's earthshaking about that is it basically says, we believe you can do better. We believe in setting high standards and helping you achieve high standards. That's different from, we're just going to give you money to make ourselves feel better, and that the results don't end up accomplishing our objectives.

**Mr. Warren.** You know, that makes me think of the old Reagan statement, "trust but verify," because you did both. You trusted the local leaders, but you also made accountability.

Now, let's talk about this partnership for a minute, because you brought in a whole new group of partners in PEPFAR. PEPFAR was not just a model for AIDS, but it's a model for all kinds of programs, because you invited everybody to the table, including faith-based.

**The President.** Especially faith-based. I say especially faith-based, not including faith-based, because I believe that when people join organizations to love their neighbor, that is a powerful—not only recruiting tool, but it's a powerful incentive for effectiveness on the ground. And one of the great things about our experience—I say "our"—Laura is here, as you know—and we've traveled to Africa a couple of times, and we've seen people



from the faith community share their—in Africa sharing their stories about what it's like to love a neighbor.

And so—

**Mr. Warren.** Well, I've heard you say many times, "government can't love."

**The President.** That's right, government is justice and law. Love is—love comes from a higher government and—or a higher calling or from God. [Laughter]

And so it's—and so the whole purpose of including the faith organizations was, frankly, bring some order into that which was already happening. Your church, other churches, you know, synagogues, people from around America who are motivated by faith are involved in the process. So why not bring some order and focus, and that's a proper role of the government in this case.

And it's working, it's paying off, people are—the interesting thing about people who are volunteering in Africa to save lives is they're actually saving their own life in many ways. They may not be saving it, but they're certainly strengthening it.

**Mr. Warren.** Let me talk to you about your own personal motivation behind this. This was the largest initiative ever committed to a single disease, PEPFAR. And, I mean, when people heard it, I know when I heard it in 2003, I thought, "Will that ever get voted through?" Because I—it was just such an enormous, what they call a B-HAG—a big, hairy, audacious goal—[laughter]—and from a purely political viewpoint, you aren't going to get a whole lot of votes from that. So what was it that motivated you to do PEPFAR?

**The President.** Well, first of all, I believe in this admonition, this principle: To whom much is given, much is required. It's what I believe.

**Mr. Warren.** Yes. I've heard you say that many times.

**The President.** Secondly, I would hope that when it's all said and done, people say this is a guy who showed up to solve problems. And when you have somebody say there's a pandemic that you can help, and you do nothing about it, then you have, frankly, disgraced the office.

And finally, I was surrounded by people who were pushing hard on this initiative, people I trusted: Condi Rice, Mike Gerson.

When I first got the—was talking to Condi about becoming the National Security Adviser, she said, "I want you to make this promise to me that you will focus on Africa." I said, "Okay." And then there's Gerson, who was very much involved with our policy on these issues, and he—I spent a lot of time with him; see, he was the speechwriter. And so the speechwriter got to spend a lot of time with the speechmaker. [Laughter]

**Mr. Warren.** Plant a few seeds of thought. [Laughter]

**The President.** It's harder to take words out of a speech than put them in at times. [Laughter] Anyway, my only point is, I had a group of people around me, people whose—I trust, and people whose hearts I came to admire, that helped forge the policy as well.

So, you know, you said you're going to give awards and all that—I don't deserve an award. The people that helped make this policy work deserve the award.

And then, once we got going, Mark Dybul, who is our ambassador on AIDS—I think you call him coordinator for AIDS, one of these titles—but anyway, I like to be able to deal with Mark, because I can say, "Mark, what are we doing? Are we making progress?" And the answer is, yes. But if the answer was no, I would say, "Why not, Mark?" And my only point there is that we've got a bunch of dedicated folks, once the initiative got going, who are followthrough people. And anyway, it's been a fabulous experience working with them all.

**Mr. Warren.** So it's been worth the scars?

**The President.** Yes, look, I mean, absolutely. I don't feel like I have scars.

**Mr. Warren.** Tell me about some personal experience that you've seen as you've traveled around the results, because there are all these numbers—2 million people, 2 million lives that have been saved that wouldn't be on ARVs, wouldn't be getting any help. Can you tell me about one of them?

**The President.** Yes. So in Uganda—we first went to Uganda—I was checking out the ABC program: Abstinence, Be faithful, Condoms—kind of the comprehensive approach to prevention in the first place. And I met a guy named Mohamed in a clinic there, and he just looked terrible. It turns

out, one of his dreams was to come to the United States. He got on antiretrovirals and was present in the East Room—where you were, by the way—when we signed the reauthorization bill of PEPFAR.

Now, it is a moving experience to see a person go from near death to realizing the dream of being in the White House. That's why they call the effect that's taking place in Africa the Lazarus effect: People given up for dead now realizing there is life.

And we—Laura and I met a lot of people. What the American people have got to understand about this initiative is, it's in our national interest that we help save lives in Africa.

**Mr. Warren.** It's good foreign policy.

**The President.** Well, it's really good foreign policy. It's good national security policy, too, because the truth of the matter is we are involved in an ideological conflict against people that—who can only recruit when they find hopelessness. And there's nothing more hopeless than to be an orphan, for example, whose parents died of HIV/AIDS, wondering whether or not there's a future for them. And so it's in our national security interest to deal with hopelessness where we can find it. It's obviously in our economic interest to have a vibrant, growing group of consumers.

But it's in our moral interest, it's in our moral interest. We're a better nation when we save lives. And I wish the American people could see what we have seen after this PEPFAR initiative has kicked in and brought results. I mean, people literally lining the roads in Tanzania, all waving and anxious to express their love and appreciation to the American President who represents the American people. And it was good to see them all waving with all five fingers, I might add. *[Laughter]*

**Mr. Warren.** Well, Kay and I have been in most of those PEPFAR countries, and it is true. You know what I've discovered, that when you help somebody get better who's been sick, they tend to like your country. *[Laughter]*

**The President.** Yes, they do, which is good. Look, I think it's important. Everybody wants to be liked. But being liked because you've actually done something constructive that's measurable is the best way to try to

be liked. And it's very important for America to be humble in our aid, in this sense. In other words, we can't say, "Okay, we're spending so much money, we demand this, or, we're going to make you do this." And that will end up making us not liked. But to be partners with people and to herald good government and focus on the individual will make us liked.

**Mr. Warren.** I want to read you a quote. In a recent article I read, Mike Gerson wrote about you, referring to the malaria initiative. And he said: "In the crucial policy meeting about malaria, one person supported it, the President of the United States, shutting off debate with moral certitude that others have criticized. And I saw how this moral framework led him to an immediate identification with a dying African child, a Chinese dissident, the Sudanese former slave, the Burmese women's advocate. It's one reason why I'll never be cynical about government or even President Bush." Is that an accurate description?

**The President.** Yes. He was sitting in the meeting. *[Laughter]* Far be it from me to contradict him. *[Laughter]* After all, he now has the power to write another column. Anyway—*[laughter]*.

**Mr. Warren.** Okay, well, let me read you another—

**The President.** I believe this, I believe this, and I have said this throughout my Presidency: First of all, a President must have a firm set of principles from which he will not deviate. And I believe in the universality of freedom, and I believe freedom is universal because of an Almighty God. And I believe that it's not just freedom from tyranny that the United States must become involved in, I believe it's freedom from disease, freedom from hunger, freedom from deprivation.

And so if you believe in the universality of freedom, then you should not—then one should not shy away from doing your duty. I want to—can I share a story with you?

**Mr. Warren.** Go right ahead.

**The President.** So I've had a lot of amazing moments as President. One such moment came in the town square—a town square in Bucharest, Romania. I was coming to be

the—welcome people into NATO—“An attack on one is an attack on all,” which is something the Romanians wanted to hear from the U.S. President. In other words, their security was guaranteed.

It's a rainy day, there was a lit balcony, and I asked, “Why is that balcony lit?” And it was because the tyrant Ceausescu had given his last speech in this balcony. Just as I stepped up to speak a full rainbow appears. It was a stunning moment. Remember, it was a drizzly day, kind of dark. And I ad-libbed, “God is smiling on Bucharest,” because the rainbow ended exactly behind the balcony where the tyrant had given his last speech.

And you can look at that any way you want to look at it. One way to look at it is, hey, pal, you've got a lot of influence, and you can use your influence for human liberty, for decency, and for justice all times, all places.

And so the PEPFAR initiative, or what Mike described in that article, has been a part of the freedom initiative, the freedom agenda. And the real challenge for the world is whether or not people have a view that freedom is universal or whether it just happens to be available for certain people. And it's kind of a moral relativist debate. I believe in the universality of freedom and have not deviated from that during my Presidency.

**Mr. Warren.** Now I've read many, many stories where PEPFAR gave people hope. It's all about hope.

**The President.** Yes, it is.

**Mr. Warren.** Do you feel pretty hopeful that we can win this fight against AIDS?

**The President.** Sure. I believe we can win a fight against anything when we get our minds set to it. At home, we've spent about 99 billion since my—I've been President; 20 billion on top of that for research. You know, I've gotten to know Anthony Fauci and some of the people at the NIH, who are working day and night to try to figure out a way to, you know, provide some kind of relief from this pandemic or this terrible disease. Yes, we can; sure, absolutely. And a lot of it has to do with people's individual, you know, being responsible for their behavior. People—

**Mr. Warren.** All right. Let's talk about that for a minute. AIDS is primarily a behav-

ior-based disease. I mean, you don't get it from water, you don't get it from the air—

**The President.** Right.

**Mr. Warren.** —you can't just eat something and get it. And you supported, and PEPFAR supports, behavior-based training as part of a total package like ABC and all that. And yet there are some people who oppose—they don't think the Government should be trying to encourage healthy behavior. What do you say to those people?

**The President.** They must not be results-oriented people. If you want to achieve results, if you actually want to solve the problem, then put strategies in place that work. Look, I mean, abstinence is a loaded word here in Washington, DC; it's become politicized. My only—my answer to that is it's a part of a comprehensive strategy and, by the way, abstinence works every time. *[Laughter]*

**Mr. Warren.** All right, let me read you this quote out of the New York Times. I read this last January, it was an article titled “In the Global Battle on AIDS Bush Creates a Legacy.” And here's the quote: “Even critics concede that Mr. Bush spawned a philosophical revolution. In one striking step he put to rest the notion that because patients were poor or uneducated, they did not deserve, or could not be taught to use, medicine that could mean the difference between life and death.”

**The President.** Well, if you believe that we're all God's children and believe there is God-given talent for every single person, then that's—one should not be surprised by a policy that elevates the individual, that focuses on the individual, that doesn't focus on bureaucracies but tries to get help into the hands of, you know, individual people.

It's really the heart of a lot of our policies in—out of the administration, whether it be PEPFAR, whether it be the faith-based initiative. For example, you know, some people need help from something other than a psychologist when it comes to drugs or drinking. And therefore, rather than force people into situations where it won't be effective, why not give them a scrip that they could redeem at a place that may be a faith-based institution where they call upon a higher being to help them from—

**Mr. Warren.** For their recovery.

**The President.** Yes, absolutely. And my only point is, it's the empowerment of the individual that also yields the results that we initially talked about. And it's very important for America not to become, you know, have such a kind of a elitist view about himself or a snobbery where we don't trust the individual.

**Mr. Warren.** You know, Mr. President, my wife has had a profound effect on me, and I know that's true with you.

**The President.** That would be true.

**Mr. Warren.** And the First Lady has been involved in this battle all along. Kay and I have been with her on trips in Africa, and seen that. I want the people to see a little bit of a video of Mrs. Bush speaking in Rwanda in one of her trips, dealing with people. Let's just watch this for a second.

[At this point, a video was shown.]

**Mr. Warren.** Would you welcome the First Lady of the United States, Mrs. Laura Bush, along with my wife, Kay Warren?

Well, thank you for joining us, Mrs. Bush—

**The First Lady.** Thanks, Rick.

**Mr. Warren.** —and it's been great to see you in action. And actually, Barbara is here today.

**The First Lady.** That's right.

**Mr. Warren.** Where is she? There she is. Hi, Barbara.

**The President.** Hi, Barbara. [Laughter]

**Mr. Warren.** We're glad you're with us. Katie.

**Kay Warren.** Well, Mrs. Bush, I have to start by saying thank you. This is my first opportunity to thank you for your graciousness to me.

[Mrs. Warren, Mr. Warren, and the First Lady had a brief exchange, concluding as follows.]

**Mr. Warren.** You know, that particular church that we were all in together was a small church of 300 people caring for 900 people with AIDS. That's how many they were caring for in the community, that one church.

**The First Lady.** And we did meet one 12-year-old who was raising her little brothers. You know, it's just something that we

don't think about here in the U.S., but that is these very young children themselves who are raising little children—

**The President.** Yes, one of the—excuse me, baby.

**The First Lady.** Go ahead.

**The President.** I call her “baby.” Anyway—[laughter].

**The First Lady.** At least it's not “Ricky.” [Laughter]

**Mrs. Warren.** That's okay. I'm “Katie.” So everybody's “Katie,” “Ricky,” “Georgie,” “Laurie.” So—[laughter].

**The President.** One of the results that I did not talk about was the 10 million people who have been affected, 10 million people with HIV have been affected by the program. So over 2 for antiretrovirals, but 10 million have been affected; 4 million of those are orphans.

**Mr. Warren.** Wow.

**The President.** And so my only point is, is that there's a lot of people—

**Mrs. Warren.** There are.

**The President.** —whose lives are being touched by the program.

**Mrs. Warren.** I remember that particular church, and just—I remember glancing up at just one point and seeing you and Jenna at that exact moment when some girls in little torn dresses climbed up in your laps.

[Mrs. Warren, Mr. Warren, and the First Lady continued their exchange, concluding as follows.]

**Mr. Warren.** It's all tied in together. I want to go back, Mr. President, to one of the things that Mrs. Bush said about there is a whole group of people who say, “Well, should we be spending this money on developments?” Particularly, say, the economy is bad right now, should we be spending on—how does that—how do you justify spending that with the principle of to whom much is given, much is required, as you—as a foundation of your—

**The President.** Because we're a rich nation, and we can do both. And the worst thing would be for our Government to make promises to people on the continent of Africa that we're here to help you and to be partners with you, and then all of a sudden turn our

back on them. I couldn't think of anything—

**Mr. Warren.** And let them die.

**The President.** Well, that too. Yes, I mean, that would be terrible.

You know, it's interesting that you were asking about stories. Remember we went to the school in Rwanda? So these were children whose parents had died because of AIDS. And I just happened to walk by and said, "God is good." And without hesitation, they said, "All the time." [Laughter]

**The First Lady.** And that was so sweet.

**The President.** And it was a very powerful, very sweet message.

**Mrs. Warren.** President and Mrs. Bush, caring for the least of these is obviously something that's very important in your family. I mean, not only are the two of you very involved, but your daughters have been involved, and both have spent extended time volunteering, caring for people with HIV. So obviously, you did something right with them. And what—how did you teach your daughters to this life of self-sacrifice?

**The First Lady.** Well, I think we both were very fortunate to have parents who modeled that behavior for us through our whole childhood, and I think we've done that with Barbara and Jenna as well. But one of the really, really interesting things and sweet parts of the work the President has done with PEPFAR and PMI is that our girls have been so engaged in it. Barbara worked for 9 months in a hospital in South Africa, a children's hospital in South Africa. Jenna worked with UNICEF in Central America and South America, and then came home and wrote a book about a girl that she met there who is an AIDS orphan who had a baby, became pregnant as a single young girl, a 17-year old, and was able to deliver an HIV-free baby.

And one of the sweet things that happened when Jenna and I were together—I think we were in Zambia, but I may be wrong—and two young women were telling us their stories, and everyone around was really surprised that they told us this story in front of other people, because it was really a secret. But both of them had contracted AIDS because of sexual abuse. And so Jenna went over after—they wept while they told the stories, and so, of course, we did too—but after

it was finished, Jenna went over just to speak to them by herself. And she said, "You know, this happens to girls all over the world; it's not just you." And she said, "I wrote a book about a girl I met in Central America that has your same story." And they said, "Oh, would you write a book about us?"

**The President.** I think first of all, there's nothing that makes a parent more proud when their child becomes a contributor. I suspect that if people got to see what our girls got to see, they would want to help save lives too. And so one of the real challenges is to make sure that America's conscience is raised, that people understand the plight of their fellow citizen.

And your church has done a great job of this. Others need to be involved as well. And there's a lot of groups that are looking for a way to fulfill, you know, the calling. And it's helpful to challenge their compassion.

**Mr. Warren.** When you become private citizens again in January, how are you going to continue this work? What—how will that change?

**The President.** Well, we're going to build a policy center/freedom institute at Southern Methodist University, where Laura went to college. And the whole purpose of this institute is to promote freedom at home and freedom abroad, based upon universal principles.

And so I—even though I haven't had much time to think about it, since I've been interested in the free market system—[laughter]—by taking non-free market action to save the free market system—[laughter]—but when we get out of here, it will be to—this whole discussion we've had here is—will be a part of the institute. And I just can envision programs coming out of this place that will encourage young people to go to—to volunteer their time or to encourage—one interesting initiative that you ought to think about and I ought to think about is to say to baby boomers, retirement isn't a golf course; retirement, fulfilling retirement is to use your time and talent—

**Mrs. Warren.** To me, that's hell. That's not retirement, that's hell. [Laughter]

**The President.** That's right, yes.

**The First Lady.** The golf course?

**Mrs. Warren.** Playing golf every day? Oh, sorry.

**The President.** Exactly. Particularly if you're a lousy golfer. [Laughter]

**Mrs. Warren.** Which we are.

**The President.** You must be. [Laughter]

**Mrs. Warren.** We are. Do you see any intersection—you also have a passion for literacy—do you see an intersection between your passion for literacy and for HIV/AIDS and this institute that you're—

**The First Lady.** Sure, and one of the other great initiatives that the President has started is the Africa Education Initiative. And in—we've supported countries to design their own textbooks, and they worked with mainly minority-serving universities in the U.S. to write and—textbooks for K–8. But a lot of those, and especially for adult literacy—illiteracy programs, where people—adults are learning to read, a lot of those early primers, those reading primers, are based on health education.

And so were a lot of these textbooks that the AEI program helped each country develop, because if children know that you get malaria from a mosquito, they can go home and tell their parents. And if they know—they just learned in their little reader how to use a mosquito net or whatever, they can also educate their parents.

And so there's a real combination between health and literacy: health education.

**The President.** And there's a real combination between freedom and literacy.

**The First Lady.** That's right.

**The President.** Literacy is freedom. If you're a literate person, you become a better citizen, and you ask tough questions for governments, for—that may not listen to the needs of the citizens. Illiteracy locks people into, you know, a status quo that is unacceptable.

And so absolutely, there's a big connection between literacy and what Laura described, and literacy and just the whole notion of freeing people to be able to realize their dreams.

**Mrs. Warren.** I have one last question, and then you probably had one as well.

**Mr. Warren.** Go ahead.

**Mrs. Warren.** And it's, what—I mean, we've been talking a lot about PEPFAR and that's all—that's people in other parts of our world, but we're here in the United States today on World AIDS Day, and there are

people in this audience who are HIV-positive.

**The President.** Yes.

**Mrs. Warren.** And, you know, what message do you, you know, the two of you or as individuals, what do you want to say to people in this audience who are positive?

**The President.** That PEPFAR is a part of a comprehensive strategy to deal both with AIDS both at home and abroad, and that the intention of PEPFAR was never to pirate money away from a domestic program. The intention for PEPFAR is to build on what we've learned here at home.

And so the first question that people ought to ask is, "What's the funding been like?" In other words, funding equals commitment; sometimes it equals, you know, effective programming, but it—at least the funding levels will give you a sense of how committed the country is. And as I mentioned, we're spending—we spent about 99 billion at home, which was a 40 percent increase from 2001 to today, which is positive.

You know, it's—it turns out that—and in my State of the Union, by the way, I talked, you know, I think a couple of times about, you know, HIV in neighborhoods that weren't used to HIV, inner-city America, for example. And this is a issue that's going to require constant vigilance here at home, and that people that may think that they're safe, you know, have got to be reminded that, you know, care and—you know, and education is important.

So, yes, but people in America should not think that PEPFAR is—

**Mr. Warren.** Over there.

**The President.** —means that we don't care about them, because we do. This Nation has—is dedicated to, you know, helping people whose lives have been severely affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Mr. Warren.** I tried to introduce Dr. Mark Dybul, our Global AIDS Coordinator earlier, but he was with you coming in. But I see you sitting here next to Barbara. So Mark, would you stand up and let us recognize the guy who's done all the work? Thank you so much. Thank you.

**The President.** So like, Mark doesn't like you to do that to him. [Laughter] He would

rather be anonymous, wouldn't you, Mark? [Laughter]

**Mr. Warren.** Well, and I know you don't like us to do this to you, but in the pre-show before we went on the air with a number of the networks, we—I had written to—or called up eight different world leaders and I asked them what they'd like to say about PEPFAR, and every one of them wanted to give a video tribute, and we showed those in the pre-session.

And I wanted to read you the list of—former President Clinton; President-elect Obama; Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Prime Minister Tony Blair; President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, representing all of the African Presidents saying thank you to you; all of the PEPFAR countries wanted to say thanks; Bill and Melinda Gates; Director Michael Kazatchkine; and a friend I met out on the street named Bono. [Laughter]

We've played seven of these video tributes to you in our preliminary program, but I wanted you to hear just a short—kind of a—about a minute synopsis of some of these. And so let's watch this for just a second.

[A video was shown.]

**Mr. Warren.** Mr. President, we talked earlier about how all of these problems are connected: literacy, poverty, disease, education. And that's what the PEACE plan is all about. PEACE stands for “promote reconciliation, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation.”

And this year, the PEACE coalition of churches—over 400,000 churches in 162 countries—and businesses and individuals, part of the PEACE coalition decided that we wanted to begin a tradition of presenting an award called the International Medal of PEACE for the most outstanding contribution in attacking what we call the five global goliaths: spiritual emptiness, corruption, extreme poverty, pandemic diseases, and illiteracy.

And the consensus was unanimous that the first International Medal of PEACE would be presented to President George Bush on the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. And it is with great honor, and great humility and respect, that we give you this award on

the behalf of all of those in the PEACE coalition, representing 162 countries. And we thank you, sir, for your commitment.

**The President.** Thank you.

**Mr. Warren.** Thank you so much.

[Mr. Warren then presented the medal and made concluding remarks, after which a video was shown.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:41 a.m. at the Newseum. Participating in the forum were Richard D. “Rick” Warren, pastor, and Kay Warren, executive director, HIV/AIDS initiative, Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA. In his remarks, the President referred to Michael Gerson, columnist and former speechwriter for the President; Mohamed Kalyesubula, HIV/AIDS activist, Uganda; and Anthony S. Fauci, director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH. Mr. Warren referred to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations; former Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; William H. “Bill” Gates III and Melinda French Gates, coauthors, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Michael Kazatchkine, executive director of the secretariat, The Global Fund; and musician and activist Paul D. “Bono” Hewson. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Remarks on the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Initiative in Greensboro, North Carolina

December 2, 2008

I am thankful that you all have come to talk to me about a very important initiative, and it's a mentoring program aimed at helping children of people who are incarcerated.

I set a goal for the country that from 2003 until 2008 that we'd have 100,000 such matches with adults combined with a child who could use some love. And I'm pleased that as of September we've exceeded that goal. And I want to thank you all for being a part of a program that, hopefully, is bringing hope to people's lives. I think it is.

First of all, I want to thank Stacey, Julia, and Destiney for sharing their stories, and I wish you all the best. I hope you—you're—I know you're appreciative that Joe, Melissa, and Emilee have taken time out of their lives to help you. I am hopeful that somebody who

watches this show, watches this program, realizes that they can make a difference in a child's life. That doesn't take much. All it takes is time; it takes a little bit of extra love. But by helping a child, you can really help the country. You help yourself by loving, but you help America one heart, one soul at a time.

So, Chuck, thank you for your hospitality. The Youth Focus program here in Greensboro, North Carolina, is a part of Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Big Brothers and Big Sisters have begun to mentor towards these three youngsters. These youngsters got ambitions and goals. They want to go to college. They want to make a difference. And I suspect that the mentors will be anxiously following the career of someone who they have been able to help.

And so thank you all for coming. God bless you, and good luck to you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Greensboro office. In his remarks, he referred to Stacey Harris, Jr., Julia Foster, and Destiney Carter, Big Brothers Big Sisters participants; Joey Gladson, Melissa Larkin, and Emilee Christopher, Big Brothers Big Sisters mentors; and Chuck Hodiernie, executive director, Youth Focus, Inc.

### **Statement on Senator Mel Martinez's Decision Not to Seek Reelection**

*December 2, 2008*

Throughout his distinguished career, Senator Mel Martinez has been a wonderful public servant. Mel's life story is a testament to the power of the American Dream. Since immigrating to the United States from Cuba at the age of 15 as a part of Operation Pedro Pan, he has taken on big challenges and built a record of achievement.

By becoming our country's first Cuban American Cabinet member as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the first Cuban American United States Senator, he has been a source of inspiration to people all across our country. As general chairman of the Republican National Committee, he worked to strengthen our party and expand outreach to new audiences. In addition, he

has been a passionate voice for freedom in his native country.

Laura and I thank Mel for his leadership and friendship over the past 8 years, and we wish him and Kitty the best as he finishes his career in the Senate and afterward.

### **Remarks on Lighting the National Christmas Tree**

*December 4, 2008*

Thank you. Mr. Secretary, thank you for the introduction, and thank you for the warm welcome. Laura and I are pleased to welcome all of you here for one of Washington's great traditions, the lighting of the National Christmas Tree.

Santa, thank you for finally showing up. [Laughter] I know you've come a long way. After all, you do live in the North Pole. You may have heard that Laura and I are going to have plenty of time next year. [Laughter] So we look forward to returning the favor. The problem is we're going to be short on an airplane. [Laughter] Have you got an extra sleigh? [Laughter]

I welcome the members of my Cabinet, the administration, and their families; Members of Congress and their families; Vin Cipolla; Mary Bomar, the Director of the National Park Service; Peggy O'Dell, Regional Director, National Capital Region of the National Park Service. All the National Park Service employees, we thank you for your dedication and work.

Laura and I are thrilled to be here with our dear friend, Reverend Luis Leon. All the entertainers, thank you for being here. You were fabulous tonight. We appreciate your performance. We especially welcome the folks from Enterprise, Alabama. And we thank the school choir for showing the determination and grit of some really fine people.

We want to thank all the volunteers who designed and created the ornaments for our State trees.

Today we celebrate the 85th anniversary of the National Christmas Tree lighting. In times of calm and in times of challenge, Americans have gathered for this ceremony. The simple story we remember during the season speaks to every generation. It is the



story of a humble birth in a quiet town, and the story of one life that changed millions more. For two millennia, the story of Christmas has brought joy to families, comfort to communities, and hope to hearts around the world.

During Christmas we celebrate the blessings of the season and the blessings that surround us every day. And the greatest of these blessings is freedom, the Almighty's gift to every man, woman, and child on the face of the Earth.

And today we give thanks to the brave men and women who protect the American people by defending freedom around the world. Over the past 8 years, my greatest honor as President has been serving as Commander in Chief of the finest military ever known.

Our men and women in uniform have stepped forward to defend our Nation during a time of war. They serve with courage and with honor, and they've made incredible sacrifices. Many of them will spend this Christmas stationed in distant lands, far from the families they love. Yet they're never far from our thoughts, and they are always in our prayers. America honors their service, and we are grateful to the sacrifice of the families who stand by their side.

Some of those families are with us tonight, and Laura and I are pleased to be joined by Kayleigh Kepler and Lindsey Van Horn. Lindsey's dad is in Baghdad. Kayleigh's dad will deploy to Iraq next year. Kayleigh and Lindsey, America is safer because of your dads, and moms and dads across America, who have stepped forward to defend our country.

And now I'm going to ask Kayleigh and Lindsey to get up here with Laura—to please come up with Laura—[laughter]—and help us light this beautiful tree.

Everybody join—five, four, three, two, one!

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:55 p.m. on the Ellipse at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, who introduced the President; SFC Steve Cramer, USA, U.S. Army Chorus, in his role as Santa Claus; Vin Cipolla, president and chief executive officer, National Park Foundation; and Luis Leon, rector, St. John's Church.

## **Remarks on Signing the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Proclamation and the Proclamation To Establish the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument**

*December 5, 2008*

**The President.** Thank you all for coming. I am going to sign two documents: one a Pearl Harbor Day Proclamation, and the other creating the World War II Valor in Pacific National Monument. The national monument will include nine sites: five in Hawaii, three in Alaska, and one in California at the Tule Lake Segregation Center, where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.

The purpose of the monument is to remind generations of Americans of the sacrifices that Americans made to protect our country. But there's a broader purpose as well, and that is to remind generations of Americans about the transformative effect of freedom.

One of the great stories of—during World War II was that people fought bitterly to defend our country and way of life, and then worked to help our enemies develop democracies according to their own cultures and their own history. And today I am so pleased to report that Japan is a strong ally of the United States of America, an ally in defending our liberties, and an ally in spreading liberty as the great ideological alternative to an enemy that still wants to do us harm.

And so this monument will help people realize the breadth and the history of World War II and its aftermath.

So I'm pleased to sign both documents, and I want to thank our distinguished visitors for joining me.

[At this point, the President signed the proclamations.]

**The President.** Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

**Proclamation 8326—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2008**

*December 5, 2008*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we mourn the more than 2,400 Americans whose lives were lost in the surprise attack on our homeland that changed the course of history. Their service and sacrifice and the service and sacrifice of all our World War II veterans will be forever honored on this day by the citizens of a free and grateful Nation.

On December 7, 1941, the enemy nearly destroyed our Pacific Fleet, and the United States was forced into a long and terrible war. A generation of Americans stepped forward to fight for our country. Their message to America's enemies was clear: If you attack this country and harm our people, there is no corner of the Earth remote enough to protect you from the reach of our Nation's Armed Forces.

Following the war the United States worked to make our most bitter enemies into our closest friends through the transformative power of freedom. The joys of liberty are often secured by the sacrifices of those who serve a cause greater than self. To honor and recognize the sacrifice of our Armed Forces, I have designated nine sites as the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. This monument will preserve our history and help share this heritage with future generations. On this anniversary, we honor the heroes who risked and lost their lives for our security and freedom. Their selfless dedication exemplifies the great character of America and continues to inspire our Nation.

The Congress, by Public Law 103–308, as amended, has designated December 7 of each year as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.”

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2008, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this sol-

emn occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all Federal agencies and interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this December 7 in honor of those who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., December 8, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 9.

**Proclamation 8327—Establishment of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument**

*December 5, 2008*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Beginning at Pearl Harbor with the day of infamy that saw the sinking of the USS ARIZONA and ending on the deck of the USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay, many of the key battles of World War II were waged on and near American shores and throughout the Pacific. We must always remember the debt we owe to the members of the Greatest Generation for our liberty. Their gift is an enduring peace that transformed enemies into steadfast allies in the cause of democracy and freedom around the globe.

Americans will never forget the harrowing sacrifices made in the Pacific by soldiers and civilians that began at dawn on December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu. The surprise attack killed more than 2,000 American military personnel and dozens of civilians and thrust the United States fully into World War II.

America responded and mobilized our forces to fight side-by-side with our allies in the European, Atlantic, and Pacific theaters. The United States Navy engaged in epic sea

battles, such as Midway, and our Armed Forces fought extraordinary land battles for the possession of occupied islands. These battles led to significant loss of life for both sides, as well as for the island's native peoples. Battlegrounds such as Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Guam, Peleliu, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa are remembered for the heroic sacrifices and valor displayed there.

The conflict raged as far north as the Alaskan territory. The United States ultimately won the encounter in the Aleutian Island chain but not without protracted and costly battles.

There were also sacrifices on the home front. Tens of millions of Americans rallied to support the war effort, often at great personal cost. Men and women of all backgrounds were called upon as industrial workers, volunteers, and civil servants. Many Americans valiantly supported the war effort even as they struggled for their own civil rights.

In commemoration of this pivotal period in our Nation's history, the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument adds nine historic sites to our national heritage of monuments and memorials representing various aspects of the war in the Pacific.

Five of those sites are in the Pearl Harbor area, which is the home of both the USS ARIZONA and the USS MISSOURI—milestones of the Pacific campaign that mark the beginning and the end of the war. The sites in this area include: the USS ARIZONA Memorial and Visitor Center, the USS UTAH Memorial, the USS OKLAHOMA Memorial, the six Chief Petty Officer Bungalows on Ford Island, and mooring quays F6, F7, and F8, which constituted part of Battleship Row. The USS ARIZONA and USS UTAH vessels will not be designated as part of the national monument, but instead will be retained by the Department of Defense (through the Department of the Navy) as the final resting place for those entombed there.

Three sites are located in Alaska's Aleutian Islands. The first is the crash site of a Consolidated B-24D Liberator bomber—an aircraft of a type that played a highly significant role in World War II—located on Atka Island. The second is the site of Imperial Ja-

pan's occupation of Kiska Island, beginning in June 1942, which marks the northern limit of Imperial Japan's expansion in the Pacific. The Kiska site includes historic relics such as Imperial Japanese coastal and antiaircraft defenses, camps, roads, an airfield, a submarine base, a seaplane base, and other installations, as well as the remains of Allied defenses, including runway facilities and gun batteries.

The third Aleutian designation is on Attu Island, the site of the only land battle fought in North America during World War II. It still retains the scars of the battle: thousands of shell and bomb craters in the tundra; Japanese trenches, foxholes, and gun encampments; American ammunition magazines and dumps; and spent cartridges, shrapnel, and shells located at the scenes of heavy fighting. Attu later served as a base for bombing missions against Japanese holdings.

The last of the nine designations will bring increased understanding of the high price paid by some Americans on the home front. The Tule Lake Segregation Center National Historic Landmark and nearby Camp Tule Lake in California were both used to house Japanese-Americans relocated from the west coast of the United States. They encompass the original segregation center's stockade, the War Relocation Authority Motor Pool, the Post Engineer's Yard and Motor Pool, a small part of the Military Police Compound, several historic structures used by internees and prisoners of war at Camp Tule Lake, and the sprawling landscape that forms the historic setting.

**Whereas** much of the Federal property within the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument is easily accessible to visitors from around the world;

**Whereas** the Secretary of the Interior should be authorized and directed to interpret the broader story of World War II in the Pacific in partnership with the Department of Defense, the States of Hawaii, Alaska, and California, and other governmental and non-profit organizations;

**Whereas** the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument will promote understanding of related resources, encourage continuing research, present interpretive opportunities and programs for visitors to better

understand and honor the sacrifices borne by the Greatest Generation, and tell the story from Pearl Harbor to Peace;

**Whereas** section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431) (the “Antiquities Act”) authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected;

**Whereas** it is in the public interest to preserve the areas described above and on the attached maps as the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument;

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument for the purpose of protecting the objects described above, all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States within the boundaries described on the accompanying maps, which are attached and form a part of this proclamation. The Federal lands and interests in land reserved consist of approximately 6,310 acres, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other disposition under the public land laws, including, but not limited to, withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

#### ***Management of the National Monument***

The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the National Park

Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, to implement the purposes of this proclamation. The National Park Service shall generally administer the national monument, except that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall administer the portions of the national monument that are within a national wildlife refuge. The National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may prepare an agreement to share, consistent with applicable laws, whatever resources are necessary to properly manage the monument.

For the purposes of preserving, interpreting, and enhancing public understanding and appreciation of the national monument and the broader story of World War II in the Pacific, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall prepare a management plan within 3 years of the date of this proclamation.

The Secretary of the Interior shall have management responsibility for the monument sites and facilities in Hawaii within the boundaries designated on the accompanying maps to the extent necessary to implement this proclamation, including the responsibility to maintain and repair the Chief Petty Officer Bungalows and other monument facilities. The Department of Defense may retain the authority to control access to those sites. The Department of the Interior through the National Park Service and the Department of the Navy may execute an agreement to provide for the operational needs and responsibilities of each Department in implementing this proclamation.

#### ***Armed Forces Actions***

1. The prohibitions required by this proclamation shall not restrict activities and exercises of the Armed Forces (including those carried out by the United States Coast Guard).

2. All activities and exercises of the Armed Forces shall be carried out in a manner that avoids, to the extent practicable and consistent with operational requirements, adverse impacts on monument resources and qualities.

3. In the event of threatened or actual destruction of, loss of, or injury to a monument

resource or quality resulting from an incident, including but not limited to spills and groundings, caused by a component of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, the cognizant component shall promptly coordinate with the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of taking appropriate actions to respond to and mitigate the harm and, if possible, restore or replace the monument resource or quality.

4. Nothing in this proclamation or any regulation implementing it shall limit or otherwise affect the Armed Forces' discretion to use, maintain, improve, or manage any real property under the administrative control of a Military Department or otherwise limit the availability of such real property for military mission purposes.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Nothing in this proclamation shall alter the authority of any Federal agency to take action in the monument area where otherwise authorized under applicable legal authorities, except as provided by this proclamation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any lands thereof.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 9, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annexes will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 10.

## **Remarks on the National Economy** *December 5, 2008*

Today's job data reflects the fact that our economy is in a recession. This is in large part because of severe problems in our housing, credit, and financial markets, which have resulted in significant job losses. I'm concerned about our workers who've lost jobs during this downturn, and I'm—as we work to address the problems of this economy, we've extended unemployment insurance benefits to those who have lost their jobs during this downturn.

We are focusing on the root causes of the economic downturn in order to return our economy to health. The most urgent issue facing the economy is the problem in the credit markets. Businesses and consumers need access to credit at affordable rates to spend and invest. And so we're working to stabilize the markets and make credit more affordable and available. We're working with the Federal Reserve and FDIC, and credit is beginning to move. A market that was frozen is thawing. There's still more work to do, but there are some encouraging signs.

A root cause of the slowdown is housing. And so we continue to take actions that will avoid preventable foreclosures and speed a return to a healthy housing market. Interest rates help the housing market recover, and interest rates, mortgage rates are going down. And plus there's a number of programs in place to help Americans stay in their homes, to limit the preventable foreclosures.

I am concerned about the viability of the automobile companies. I'm concerned about those who work for the automobile companies and their families. And likewise, I am concerned about taxpayer money being provided to those companies that may not survive. Put out a detailed plan recently that uses money that Congress appropriated last fall for the auto industry, money that can be used so long as the companies make hard choices on all aspects of their business to prove that they can not only survive but thrive.

It is important that Congress act next week on this plan. And it's important to make sure that taxpayers' money be paid back if any is given to the companies.

It's going to take time for all the actions we have taken to have their full impact. But I am confident that the steps we're taking will help fix the problems in our economy and return it to strength. My administration is committed to ensuring that our economy succeeds. And I know the incoming administration shares the same commitment.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:29 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **November 29**

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

#### **November 30**

In the afternoon, on the North Lawn, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in the presentation of the White House Christmas tree.

#### **December 1**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Situation Room, he received an update on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, followed by an update on the situation in Iraq.

#### **December 2**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Greensboro, NC, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Donna Turner.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the President and Mrs. Bush attended an advance appreciation reception.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roszell Dulany Hunter to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brad Cole to be a member of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The President announced his intention to appoint James W. Ceaser as a member of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board: B. John Garrick (and, upon approval, designate him as Chair); William Howard Arnold; George Milton Hornberger; Andrew C. Kadak; Ali Mosleh; and Henry Petroski.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino: Anna Regula Haug de Cablik; Gilberto Cardenas; Doreen M. Colon Camacho; Dorene C. Dominguez; Jose B. Fernandez; Patrick Alexander Lopez Negrete; and Ricardo Romo.

The President announced his intention to appoint Randolph D. Brock III and Frederic V. Malek as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Military Academy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Nancy L. Johnson and Albert Hawkins III as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy.

#### **December 3**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with members of the Commission on Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism.

#### **December 4**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, on the State Floor and then in the Map Room, he participated in an interview with John Yang of NBC News.

**December 5**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**


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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**


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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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**Released November 30**

Statement by the Press Secretary on Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's visit to India

**Released December 1**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 5714

Fact sheet: World AIDS Day 2008

**Released December 2**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2040, S. 602, and S. 1193

Fact sheet: President Bush Has Improved How We Address Human Need Through Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

**Released December 3**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Fact sheet: Defending Against Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism

**Released December 4**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Fact sheet: The Strategic Framework Agreement and the Security Agreement With Iraq

**Released December 5**

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott M. Stanzel

Statement by the Press Secretary on the death of Alexsey II, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

Advanced text of the President's remarks to the Saban Forum

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**


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**Approved December 1**

H.R. 5714 / Public Law 110-450  
United States Army Commemorative Coin Act of 2008

**Approved December 2**

H.R. 2040 / Public Law 110-451  
Civil Rights Act of 1964 Commemorative Coin Act

S. 602 / Public Law 110-452  
Child Safe Viewing Act of 2007

S. 1193 / Public Law 110-453  
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 2 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes